

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05150 061542Z

71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

CU-02 IO-13 EUR-12 EA-07 /093 W

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R 061350Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6645

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5150

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, SEDU, AR

SUBJECT: PURGE OF "MARXIST INFILTRATION" AT PROVINCIAL  
UNIVERSITY

1. MASSIVE PURGE OF PRESENT AND PAST FACULTY MEMBERS AND SOME STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH, IN BAHIA BLANCA, WAS ANNOUNCED AUGUST 4 IN PRESS CONFERENCE IN THAT CITY CALLED BY LOCAL MILITARY AND POLICE AUTHORITIES. SEVENTEEN PERSONS HAVE BEEN DETAINED AND ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE WERE LISTED WHO ARE PRESENTLY ABROAD. MOST NOTED OF THOSE LISTED WAS GUSTAVO MALEK, FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION UNDER LANUSSE REGIME (1971-1973) AND FORMER RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH. MALEK IS PRESENTLY SERVING IN MONTEVIDEO AS CHIEF OF UNESCO REGIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN. MILITARY AUTHORITIES SAID THERE IS THIRD LIST OF OTHER PERSONS IMPLICATED IN MATTER WHICH IS BEING HELD BACK PENDING INVESTIGATION.

2. ACCORDING TO AUTHORITIES, ARRESTS AND NAMING OF OTHERS CURRENTLY ABSENT FROM ARGENTINA IS RESULT OF INVESTIGATION OF "MARXIST INFILTRATION" AT UNIVERSITY. EXAMPLES OF LITERATURE AND COURSE MATERIAL DISPLAYED AT PRESS CONFERENCE INCLUDED EDUCATION LAW OF RUMANIA, A COMMUNIST CHINESE JOURNAL, ARTICLES WRITTEN BY ARGENTINE PROFESSORS WHICH GIVE "FALSE AND UNJUST IMAGE OF REALITIES" OF SOUTHERN REGION, AND VARIOUS  
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 05150 061542Z

DOCUMENTS IDENTIFIED WITH THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL.

3. AUTHORITIES TRACED HISTORY OF MARXIST INFILTRATION BACK TO 1958 WITH ARRIVAL OF CERTAIN FRENCH PROFESSORS AT UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES, AND SELECTION BY THESE TEACHERS OF STUDENTS TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDY ABROAD IN FRANCE, NETHERLANDS, POLAND, RUSSIA AND "UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO IN USA."

4. MORNING PRESS AUGST 5 CARRIED TEXT OF TELEGRAM FROM MALEK ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT VIDELA PROTESTING ALLEGATIONS AND OFFERING TO PLACE SELF AT DISPOSITION GOA FOR ANY FORM OF INVESTIGATION. MALEK IS REPORTED TO HAVE VISITED ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN MONTEVIDEO TO DISCUSS MATTER. AT SAME TIME, PRESS CARRIED FULL TEXT OF LETTER FROM FORMER PRESIDENT LANUSSE ADDRESSED TO GENERAL VILAS, SECOND IN COMMAND FIFTH CORPS (BAHIA BLANCA), WHO SPONSORED PRESS CONFERENCE. LANUSSE IN SHARP TERMS DEFENDED MALEK AND PROTESTED MANNER IN WHICH CHARGES MADE WITHOUT GIVING MALEK OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND HIMSELF. HE POINTED OUT THAT MALEK FULLY CLEARED BY MILITARY SECURITY BEFORE OBTAINING APPOINTMENTS IN GOA IN 1970-1971.

5. COMMENT. ON BASIS EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US, IT APPEARS THAT AUTHORITIES IN BAHIA BLANCA MAY HAVE UNDERTAKEN LOCAL ANTI-MARXIST WITCHHUNT WHICH MAY HAVE REPERCUSSIONS DAMAGING TO GOA. SINCE COUP OF MARCH 1976 GOA HAS MANAGED TO LARGELY ELIMINATE POLITICAL ACTIVISM FROM UNIVERSITIES WITHOUT BRINGING DOWN UPON THEIR HEADS WIDESPREAD CRITICISM EITHER DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL. MANNER IN WHICH BAHIA BLANCA AUTHORITIES HAVE MOVED CREATES IMAGE OF ANTI-MARXIST EXTREMISTS PURGING UNIVERSITY ON IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS.

6. WE EXPECT THAT BOTH WE AND DEPT WILL SOON BE RECEIVING INQUIRIES FROM INTERESTED PARTIES IN US CONCERNING WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS OF ACADEMICS NAMED IN LISTS. NAMES AND IDENTIFYING DATA AS CARRIED IN PRESS ARE BEING POUCHED TO ARA/APU.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, SEDU, AR  
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